

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/506,684  
Amendment filed July 25, 2005  
Reply to OA dated May 26, 2005

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended):** A cleaning blade for removal of an untransferred toner remaining on a surface of an image bearing member, wherein a fine particles ~~is~~ are attached to a surface of at least a portion of said cleaning blade to come into contact with said image bearing member in an amount of 1 to 10 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

**Claim 2 (Currently Amended):** The cleaning blade according to claim 1, wherein the fine particles ~~has~~ have an average particle diameter of at least 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Claim 3 (Currently Amended):** The cleaning blade according to claim 1, wherein the fine particles ~~is~~ are in an aspheric shape.

**Claim 4 (Currently Amended):** The cleaning blade according to claim 3, wherein the aspheric fine particles ~~has~~ have a sphericity of greater than 1.3 as expressed in terms of a dl/ds ratio where dl is a major axis of a particle and ds is a miner axis of a particle.

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**Claim 5 (Currently Amended):** The cleaning blade according to claim 1, wherein the fine particles ~~is~~ are at least one selected from the group consisting of organic fine particles, inorganic fine particles and toner.

**Claim 6 (Currently Amended):** The cleaning blade according to claim 5, wherein the organic fine particles ~~comprises~~ comprise a synthetic resin selected from polyolefin resins, fluororesins, polyester resins, acrylic resins, aromatic vinyl resins and copolymer resins.

**Claim 7 (Currently Amended):** The cleaning blade according to claim 6, wherein the organic fine particles ~~is~~ are ~~an~~ aspheric, pulverized resin fine particles obtained by pulverization of a synthetic resin.

**Claim 8 (Original):** The cleaning blade according to claim 7, wherein the synthetic resin is a polyester resin or a styrene-acrylate copolymer resin.

**Claim 9 (Currently Amended):** The cleaning blade according to claim 5, wherein the fine particles ~~is~~ are an aspheric pulverized toner comprising a binder resin and a colorant.

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**Claim 10 (Currently Amended):** The cleaning blade according to claim 5, wherein the inorganic fine particles ~~is~~ are inorganic fine particles selected from calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate, silica and molybdenum sulfide.

**Claim 11 (Original):** The cleaning blade according to claim 10, wherein the calcium carbonate is a cubic calcium carbonate.

**Claim 12 (Original):** The cleaning blade according to claim 1, which is formed of an elastic material.

**Claim 13 (Original):** The cleaning blade according to claim 12, wherein the elastic material is a conjugated diene rubber, polyurethane, fluororubber or silicone rubber.

**Claim 14 (Original):** The cleaning blade according to claim 1, which has a JIS A hardness of 40 to 90 degrees.

**Claim 15 (Original):** The cleaning blade according to claim 1, wherein the untransferred toner is a spherical toner that has a volume average particle diameter of 2 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , a particle diameter distribution of 1.3 or lower as expressed in terms of a  $dv/dp$  ratio where  $dv$  is a volume average particle

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diameter and  $d_p$  is a number average particle diameter, and a sphericity of 1 to 1.3 as expressed in terms of a  $d_l/d_s$  ratio wherein  $d_l$  is a major axis of a particle and  $d_s$  is a minor axis of a particle.

**Claim 16 (Currently Amended):** A process for producing a surface treated cleaning blade for removal of an untransferred toner remaining on a surface of an image bearing member, which comprises applying a nonionic surfactant to a surface of at least a portion of a cleaning blade to come into contact with the image bearing member, and attaching ~~a~~ fine particles to the surfactant-applied portion in an amount of 1 to 10 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>, followed by drying.

**Claim 17 (Currently Amended):** The production process according to claim 16, wherein the nonionic surfactant is applied to the surface of at least the portion of the cleaning blade to come into contact with the image bearing member, and while the nonionic surfactant is being wetted, the fine particles ~~is~~ are brought into contact with the nonionic surfactant to attach to the surfactant-applied portion substantially uniformly, followed by drying at a temperature of 30 to 90°C.

**Claim 18 (Currently Amended):** An image forming device equipped with a cleaning blade for removal of an untransferred toner remaining on a surface of an image bearing member, wherein said cleaning blade is a cleaning blade which comprises ~~a~~ fine particles attached to a surface of at least a portion of the cleaning blade to come into contact with the image bearing member in an amount of 1 to 10 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>.

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**Claim 19 (Currently Amended):** An image forming method making use of an image forming device equipped with a cleaning blade for removal of an untransferred toner remaining on a surface of an image bearing member, wherein a cleaning blade, which comprises a fine particles attached to a surface of at least a portion thereof to come into contact with the image bearing member in an amount of 1 to 10 mg/cm<sup>2</sup>, is used as said cleaning blade, and a spherical toner is used as a toner.

**Claim 20 (Original):** The image forming method according to claim 19, wherein the spherical toner is a spherical toner which is colored in a color tone selected from cyan, yellow, magenta and black.